

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /065 W

-----071185 211942Z /72

R 210920Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7443

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0748

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SOWETO AND THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS

1. AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, THE LULL FOLLOWING THE DETENTIONS AND BANNINGS OF LAST OCTOBER HAS ALLOWED THE GOVERNMENT TIME TO SOFTEN RESISTANCE IN SOWETO TO THE COMMUNITY COUNCILS. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF SOWETO'S CITIZENS STILL REJECT THE CONCEPT IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN, SEVERAL CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL GROUPS HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE AND HAVE BEGUN CAMPAIGNING FOR THE 19 SEATS AT STAKE IN THE SPECIAL BY-ELECTION CALLED FOR NEXT MONTH TO FILL OUT THE COUNCIL.

2. THE FIRST GROUPS TO INDICATE THEIR GUARDED SUPPORT WERE THE TRIBAL MAKGOTLA MOVEMENT AND THE DOMINANTLY ZULU SOFASONKE HEADED BY EPHRAIM TSHABABLALA (A SOWETO MILLIONAIRE). THE LATEST TO JUMP ON THE BANDWAGON IS THE SOWETO RESIDENTS COMMITTEE OF MR. TOM MOERANE (FORMER EDITOR OF THE WORLD, PRIOR TO QOBOZA).

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3. COMMENT: THE TOTAL SUPPORT THESE THREE GROUPS COMMAND IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. THEY ARE ALIKE IN THAT THEY APPEAL LARGELY TO THE OLDER, RELATIVELY MORE "ESTABLISHMENT" OR TRADITIONAL TYPES. NEVERTHE LESS, TRIBALISM RUNS DEEP IN SOME AREAS OF SOWETO SO THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOFASONKE (IN SPITE OF BUTHELEZI'S REJECTION OF THE COUNCIL) OR PARTICULARLY, THE

MAKGOTLA, CANNOT BE DISMISSED COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND.
ALSO, MOREANES' RESIDENT'S COMMITTEE, WHILE NOT LIKELY TO
APPEAL TO YOUNGER RESIDENTS, DOES HAVE SOME FOLLOWING WITH
THEIR PARENTS. VIEWING THIS WHOLE PROCESS, HOWEVER, GIVES ONE
THE FEELING THAT HE HAS SEEN THIS PLAY BEFORE, ONLY THAT THE
LAST TIME THE CAST OF CHARACTERS WERE SCRAMBLING FOR SEATS
ON THE OLD UBC - URBAN BANTU COUNCILS. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER
MULDER, FOLLOWING THE SAME FORMAT, WILL ACHIEVE ANY GREATER
DEGREE OF SUCCESS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, M.C. BOTHA.
GOLINO

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Message Attributes

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